

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

3650 SCHRIEVER AVENUE MATHER, CALIFORNIA 95655
PHONE (916) 845-8510 FAX: (916) 845-8511

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

STATE CAPITOL SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
PHONE: (916) 324-8908 FAX: (916) 323-9633

September 29, 2005

Mr. Gil Jamieson
Acting Director, NIMS Integration Center
United States Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Subject: California Self-Certification of NIMS Compliance for Federal Fiscal Year 2005

Dear Mr. Jamieson:

Enclosed is the State of California's certification of compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2005. In addition, we are including an attachment that documents how California has met those NIMS requirements. California's self-certification is based on meeting the minimum NIMS requirements set forth in the United States Department of Homeland Security's policy letter to governors dated September 8, 2004.

Should you require additional information or have any questions on California's NIMS compliance, please contact Phyllis Cauley, Manager of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Preparedness Branch at 916-845-8731 or Brian Keith, Governor's Office of Homeland Security (OHS) Deputy Director for Grant Management at 916-324-8908.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

HENRY R. RENTERIA
Director
Governor's Office of Emergency Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

MATTHEW R. BETTENHAUSEN
Director
Governor's Office of Homeland Security

Enclosures

c: Grace Koch, OES Deputy Director
Phyllis Cauley, Manger, OES Preparedness Branch
Brian Keith, OHS Deputy Director

SEMS/NIMS Integration Status

September 30, 2005

Background: This document provides an overview of California's SEMS/NIMS integration status relative to NIMS requirements set forth in the official policy letter to governors from the Department of Homeland Security dated September 8, 2004.

FFY 2005 Requirements for States and Territories	
1	Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System (ICS).
2	Incorporating NIMS into existing training and exercises.
3	Ensuring that Federal preparedness funding (including DHS Homeland Security Grant Program, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds) support NIMS implementation at the state and local levels (in accordance with the eligibility and allowable use of the grants).
4	Incorporating NIMS into Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs).
5	Promotion of intrastate mutual aid agreements.
6	Coordinating and providing technical assistance to local entities regarding NIMS.

NIMS REQUIREMENTS

1. Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System (ICS).

The state as a whole meets this requirement since ICS is a foundational element of the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and is practiced by emergency management disciplines on a day-to-day basis. ICS, which provides a critical component of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), is a foundational element of SEMS. In 1996 state law mandated the use of SEMS for state government; local government has institutionalized ICS into their operations as a part of SEMS, which provides continuity and consistency in our response system.

2. Incorporating NIMS into existing training and exercises.

The NIMS Integration Center (NIC) oversees NIMS training compliance requirements. The criteria used by the NIC to determine NIMS-compliant training are ICS objectives in the NIMS National Standard Training Guidance which can be found at the NIMS homepage at www.fema.gov/nims. The NIC has specifically identified California's Fire Fighting Resources of Southern California Organized for Potential Emergencies (FIREScope) Incident Command System (ICS) courses as being equivalent to the NIMS Incident Command System, and therefore, NIMS compliant. California's SEMS Approved Course of Instruction (ACI) field courses are based on FIREScope ICS, incorporate those objectives, and are NIMS-compliant.

The state will continue to develop standardized curriculum designed to enhance the current SEMS ACI. The SEMS Technical Group Specialist Committees will review and develop training and exercise implementation plans to fully address this requirement. Many efforts are underway to incorporate NIMS into existing training and exercises to meet the NIMS requirements by FFY 2007. Examples include:

- The SEMS Training and Exercises Specialist Committee are developing training modules to assist in the enhancement of the SEMS ACI and integration of NIMS.
- The exploration of private/public partnerships for course development using various training delivery methods.
- The compilation of lists of training resources that have incorporated NIMS into their training modules.
- The SEMS Training and Exercises Specialist Committee will be developing modular NIMS-focused training curricula designed to enhance the SEMS ACI. This process will be ongoing to incorporate the continuously developing requirements for NIMS compliance from the federal government.
- The NIMS-focused curriculum will include a Train-the-Trainer course to facilitate efficient, timely delivery of the NIMS material.
- OES will establish a schedule/calendar of training activities for both internal and external training courses.

3. Ensuring that federal preparedness funding (including DHS Homeland Security Grant Program, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds) support NIMS implementation at the state and local levels (in accordance with the eligibility and allowable use of the grants).

The Office of Homeland Security (OHS) is the designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) for the federal preparedness funding programs named above. OES coordinates with OHS to ensure that our preparedness activities and these funding programs are aligned and support NIMS implementation. This will continue to be an ongoing activity. OHS representatives serve as members of not only the Advisory Board, but also the SEMS Technical Group.

To ensure the statewide implementation of NIMS, OHS grants staff has collaborated with all nine of the identified UASI jurisdictions to revise the current State and Urban Area Homeland Security strategies to address 2004, 2005, and 2006 homeland security funding. The revised strategies will provide a blueprint for grant projects funded by the ODP grants and will include the four homeland security mission areas (prevent, protect, respond, recover) to reflect the seven National Priorities identified in the National Preparedness Goal. The State and UASI strategies will also address citizen preparedness and local government concerns, and identify any additional target capabilities from the Target Capabilities List (TCL) that are a priority for them beyond the National Priorities.

4. Incorporating NIMS into Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs).

This FFY 2005 requirement applies to states; however, local and tribal governments should initiate activities to support NIMS compliance. At the state level, OES has reviewed the *State Emergency Plan* and has determined that for purposes of FFY 2005 NIMS requirements, the *State Emergency Plan* is substantially NIMS-compliant given that the *State Emergency Plan* is based upon the concepts and principles of SEMS. As part of ongoing technical assistance and coordination activities, OES will provide written guidance on how state, local, and tribal governments can incorporate NIMS into their EOPs.

5. Promotion of intrastate mutual aid agreements.

California has the oldest and probably one of the most frequently used interstate mutual aid agreements – California Disaster and Civil Defense and Master Mutual Aid Agreement. The state, all counties, and a majority of cities adopted this agreement. The agreement enables the sharing of every type of emergency response resource (firefighting, law enforcement, medical, etc.) between all jurisdictions. Some disciplines, such as law enforcement and fire and rescue, have developed specific mutual aid plans in support of this master agreement.

To improve upon our ability to assist and receive assistance from other states and communities nationally, OES sponsored legislation addressing the inclusion of California to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This legislation was signed into law on September 13, 2005. California joins the other 48 states that previously adopted EMAC. As a result California will continue to participate in the nationally-sponsored EMAC coordination effort that supports resource ordering and tracking.

6. Coordinating and providing technical assistance to local entities regarding NIMS.

For the state's role in coordinating and providing technical assistance to local entities regarding NIMS, California is employing the SEMS Maintenance System to ensure participation and broad representation of the emergency management community. The SEMS Maintenance System was developed to address the need for making changes to SEMS, including implementing improvements to SEMS and addressing compliance issues. The SEMS Maintenance System is comprised of the SEMS Advisory Board, its Technical Group members, and Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Committees (MARACs). The SEMS Technical Group and its Specialist Committees encompass state, local, and tribal governments; emergency management associations; non-governmental organizations; and the private sector. The SEMS Technical Group has been and will continue be instrumental in the development of policy recommendations and guidance for NIMS implementation.

Coordinating and providing technical assistance to state, local, and tribal entities constitutes an ongoing activity, which will involve all these agencies to achieve full SEMS/NIMS integration. This technical assistance program includes several components--coordinating assistance programs with the federal government, developing and disseminating web-based guidance materials, and convening SEMS Technical Group and Specialist Committee meetings to address SEMS/NIMS implementation issues. A component of the state's technical assistance program is the development of guidance materials and an enhanced OES web site where the state will post critical state and federal guidance materials relative to SEMS/NIMS integration.